

Kingstonian 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

NEEDING every point to maintain their challenge on Rothmans Isthmian League Division One leaders Hendon, Wycombe Wanderers stuttered to a 0-0 draw at Kingstonian on Saturday.

Manager Brian Lee made two changes for the visit to Richmond Road, bringing in Tony Brothers after an excellent mid-week performance against Maidenhead United for Rob Williams. Dylan Evans dropped out in favour of Tony Horseman, the league's leading goalscorer.

Without Williams, however, Wycombe lost some of their fire in mid-field, despite the efforts of Brothers. Skipper Larry Pritchard looked well below his best having played for England the previous evening against Northern Ireland at Manchester.

Up front Horseman fitted in well and created one or two chances with his clever distribution but centre forward Keith Searle looked unhappy all afternoon.

A stiff wind made constructive football difficult throughout the 90 minutes but Wycombe, with the breeze in the first half, wasted a number of scoring opportunities.

Searle went close after only five minutes when Dave Bullock's long throw bounced over the defence to the centre forward who beat one man and drove towards the net only for keeper John Overton, formerly with Hayes to block the effort with his legs.

ATTRACTIVE

With Holifield and Brothers working hard in the middle, Wycombe were ensured of a constant supply of possession but although their approach work was as attractive as usual, they lacked the vital finish.

Micky Preston, the current England centre half who also played on Friday evening, halted many of their raids with good support coming from the bearded Adrian Hill.

Kingstonian had little to of-

fer in attack although Blues full back Roger Grant received a severe lecture from Denham referee D. Reeves for a series of fouls on Trevor Waughman. The home side reserved all their efforts for the second half.

But for a good save from Maskell, they could easily have taken the lead as early as the fifth minute of the new half.

Keith Eshelby and Waughman combined well to give the latter a clear chance but Maskell raced off his line and blocked the effort with his legs.

RIFLED

A few seconds later at the other end, however Overton produced the save of the match.

Horseman broke clear on the wing and flighted over a perfect cross to the unmarked Searle. The centre forward rifled in a header from close range but Overton leapt brilliantly to palm the ball aside.

It was a rare moment of Wycombe pressure, however, in a half dominated by Kingstonian. With full backs Grant and Gamblin both finding it hard to keep out Doyle and Waughman, Wanderers were constantly pegged back.

Kingstonian's Micky Roach had a great opportunity to break the stalemate in the 82nd minute when Procter and Waughman combined to leave him with a good chance but he lashed the ball high over the top with only Maskell to beat.

In the final few minutes Wycombe's defence did well to hold out against a string of raids from the home forwards. Bullock and Wood again stood out and both wasted no time in relieving the pressure with big boots downfield.

Wycombe carved out one last chance to steal the points in the closing seconds when Perrin headed over Holifield's corner.

Wycombe: Maskell; Gamblin, Grant, Wood, Bullock, Brothers (sub. R. Williams), Pritchard, Holifield, Horseman, Searle, Perrin.